

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00088 231758Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----109513 231801Z /50

O 231739Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6621
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION SUUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0088

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, WA, SF, UN, US
SUBJ: NAMIBIA - PRESS REPORTS ON FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

REF: STATE 017283, USUN 192

1. IN MEETINGS AMONG THE FIVE AMBASSDORS YESTERDAY
AND TODAY I HAVE DEPLORED THE LEAKS TO THE PRESS ABOUT
EFFORTS TO SET UP PROXIMITY TALKS. THE FRENCH SEEM
TO BE THE BIGGEST PROBLEM SINCE THEY ARE CITED SO FREQUENTLY
AS SOURCE OF INFORMATION. GERMANS ALSO FIND IT HARD
TO SAY "NO COMMENT." WE ARE RELIABLY TOLD PIK BOTHA
IS FEEDING INFORMATION TO REPORTERS AND ASKING THEM
TO COME TO US TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION. FRENCH
AMBASSADOR WHO IS HARD OF HEARING AND HAS DIFFICULTY
WITH LANGUAGE IS PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO THESE
APPROACHES.

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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00088 231758Z

2. WHEN THE FIVE AMBASSADORS MET WITH BOTHA AND
FOURIE YESTERDAY WE ARRANGED IN ADVANCE FOR GERMAN
TO MAKE POINT ON CONFIDENTIALITY CONTAINED PARA 7
OF USUN 0187. THE REST OF US SUPPORTED HIS
ADMONITION. AGAIN TODAY WE STRESSED WITH FOURIE
THE NEED TO KEEP THE WRAPS ON THE NEW YORK TALKS

UNTIL ANNOUNCED.

3. I AM NOT SURE THAT THIS IS GOING TO STEM THE
TIDE OF STORIES ALTHOUGH I BELIEVE THE FIVE HERE
WILL STOP TALKING TO THE PRESS. WE WILL PLACE SPECIAL
EMPHASIS ON CONFIDENTIALITY WHEN OUR PROPOSALS ARE
PRESENTED TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

4. IN THE MEANTIME THERE IS A MALICIOUS CAMPAIGN
GOING ON IN THE PRESS HERE AGAINST DON MCHENRY.
THE ONLY QUARTER FROM WHICH THIS COULD BE COMING
IS DFA. BOTHA HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY CRITICAL ACCORDING
TO OUR CONTACTS SINCE THE ANTHONY LEWIS PIECE
ON NAMIBIA ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO. BOTHA APPARENTLY
HAS TAKEN THIS ARTICLE AS A PERSONAL ATTEMPT TO
DISCREDIT HIM AND BLAMES MCHENRY.
BOWDLER

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